

NEWS FROM ED MARKEY

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Massachusetts Seventh District

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REP. MARKEY SEEKS “CODE ORANGE” THREAT STATUS WHENEVER LNG TANKERS VISIT EVERETT TERMINAL *REIMBURSEMENT OF EVERETT’S LNG SECURITY EXPENSES AT STAKE*

WASHINGTON, DC - Representative Edward Markey (D-Malden), a senior member of the Select Committee on Homeland Security, today sent a letter to Homeland Security Department Secretary Tom Ridge, urging the Department to maintain a “High”, or Orange, Threat Level in Boston Harbor and Everett whenever Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) tankers enter the Port of Boston to be offloaded at the terminal in Everett. Because of the unique and significant security challenges associated with the Everett LNG facility, Rep. Markey’s letter also calls on the Department to retain the Orange designation for the LNG terminal, even when the national threat level is downgraded to indicate a lower risk of terrorist attack. Rep. Markey urged Secretary Ridge to maintain federal reimbursement of overtime and other supplemental funds that Everett and other communities in the vicinity of the LNG facility must spend to secure the LNG facility from terrorism during the arrival, docking and departure of the LNG tankers.

“Since the September 11th terrorist attacks, Everett and other communities surrounding the LNG facility have invested substantial amounts of money and time to ensure that the LNG facility receives the highest levels of protection possible. These comprehensive security measures are costly, and the federal government should do its part to reimburse local communities that are helping to cover the cost of securing this critically important facility,” Rep. Markey said.

“Located in a thickly populated urban area, the LNG facility in Everett is unlike any other LNG terminal in the United States. Because of its unique security needs, the Everett LNG terminal warrants the special attention of the Department and should remain on high alert during the regular LNG shipments that are essential for meeting the energy needs of the entire New England region. Ongoing security expenditures by the City of Everett and the other local communities surrounding the facility already are straining tight budgets, particularly during the ongoing economic downturn. Local police and security officers work hard to protect the LNG terminal while tankers arrive, offload and depart. This security comes with a high cost, and the federal government should provide the reimbursement that’s required,” Rep. Markey said.

A copy of Rep. Markey’s letter to Secretary Ridge is available at Rep. Markey’s website, <http://www.house.gov/markey>.

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